

## **Spring Celebration Events Schedule April 11 – April 19, 2015**

### **East**

#### **Spring Wildflower Walks Along Soak Creek and the Piney River**

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. ET

**Location:** Meet at the Soak Creek access for Piney Falls State Natural Area (see the Piney Falls web page for directions)

**Fee:** \$10 per person, children 12 and under free

**Leader:** Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** Register by April 9<sup>th</sup> by contacting Loretha Legette, 615-532-0431. Also RSVP by April 9<sup>th</sup> to [lisa.huff@tn.gov](mailto:lisa.huff@tn.gov).

**Description:** Do you like trout lilies and lousewort? How about trilliums and scorpion weed? These and many more wonderful spring wildflowers await you on easy walks up Soak Creek and the Piney River. Here, where these two rivers meet, is the nexus between Piney Falls State Natural Area and the Piney River segment of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail. First, we'll explore the Twin Rocks Nature Trail of the Cumberland Trail and will go to the Twin Rocks Overlook, where the bravest among us can climb the ladders for spectacular views of the Piney and Soak Creek gorges. You'll watch the forest change dramatically and rapidly as we climb this small overlook hill, gaining about 500 feet elevation. Afterward, we'll descend and picnic at the Piney River picnic. Then, we'll make our way up Soak Creek into the Piney Falls State Natural Area. If you love clean, crystal clear water, you'll love Soak Creek! This is a great photographing opportunity. Bring your cameras and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. Bring water and snacks/lunch. The entire hike will take about 4 hours, but you're welcome to do all or only a part of it. The hike is rated easy to moderate. No pets, please.

Lisa Huff is the eastern regional ecologist for the state natural areas program. She has a background in wildlife, forestry and ecology and has been working in her profession since 1981. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/piney/>. For those interested in nearby lodging, please consider Cumberland Mountain State Park (<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-mountain>).

#### **Big Trees and Big Views at Savage Gulf State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. CT

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Location:** We'll meet at the Savage Gulf Ranger Station at Savage Gulf State Natural Area near Gruetli-Laager and Palmer, Tennessee off Hwy. 399, N 35.43418, W 85.53950

**Leader:** David Lincicome, Natural Heritage Program Manager, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** RSVP required by April 8<sup>th</sup> at 615-532-0439. Limited to 20 attendees.

**Description:** This will be a 10 mile woodland hike in the uplands of the eastern portion of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. We will hike along portions of the Savage Day Loop, North Rim, North Plateau, Mountain Oak and Big Tree Spur Trails. Seven overlooks will provide dramatic views into Savage Gulf including a view of Savage Falls. We will also hike through stands of old-growth shortleaf and Virginia pines. Some of these magnificent pines are 350 to 400 years old and over 100 ft. tall. We will also encounter some impressive hardwood tree species along the way as well. Although the hiking conditions are moderate the hike is long and attendees need to dress appropriately for the weather, bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy shoes or boots. If you have questions please contact [david.lincicome@tn.gov](mailto:david.lincicome@tn.gov) or 615-532-0439. Overnight accommodations may be found at the nearby Fall Creek Falls State Park, visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls>

### **Natural's Area Hike for Pogue Creek Canyon SNA**

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Location:** Pickett State Park at Pogue Creek Canyon Trailhead

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Park Ranger Monique Hodge. For details call 931-879-5821.

**Description:** Meet Ranger Hodge at the new Pogue Creek Canyon trail head at 10 a.m. CT for a great hike. The trail is a medium 1.75 loop trail with a beautiful overlook and maybe we will get to see some beautiful flowers along the way. Please bring proper footwear and a camera.

### **Carter Natural Area Trail Building**

**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet at the Trailhead Parking Lot at Carter State Natural Area

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Jason Reynolds, RSVP by April 10th to [jason.reynolds@tn.gov](mailto:jason.reynolds@tn.gov) or call 931-924-2980.

**Description:** Everyone loves a loop trail! The Buggytop cave trail has always been a one-way in, one-way out trail. It is a very interesting and beloved path that ends atop the largest cave opening in the state. Join Ranger Reynolds to make the trail even better by converting it to a 5 mile loop! This event will be physically demanding so be prepared with sturdy footwear, snacks, water. We will provide tools and gloves but if you have a personal set, you are welcome to use them. Contact the listing above for more information or go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/mrnmrscarter/>.

### **Hike to DeBord Falls in Frozen Head State Natural Area**

**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. ET

**Location:** Meet at the park visitor center and carpool to the trailhead to begin the hike.

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Ranger Michael Hodge. For more information contact [Michael.E.Hodge@tn.gov](mailto:Michael.E.Hodge@tn.gov) or call 423-346-3318.

**Description:** DeBord Falls is a favorite short hike at Frozen Head up the Panther Branch Trail. The hike is an up-and-back hike and is considered easy to moderate with the total distance just less than three miles. The elevation gain is less than 200 feet. Contact the listing above for more information or go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/frozen/>

### **Pogue Creek Wildflower Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 1 p.m. CT

**Location:** Alvin C. York State Park (Home Site)

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Call Park Ranger Travis Bow for details at 931-261-5317.

**Description:** Meet us at the Alvin C York Home site at 1 p.m. central time for a short hike (approximately 2 hours) in Pogue Creek State Natural Area. The trail begins with a steep section but quickly tapers off to a more gradual slope. Bring water, proper footwear, and a camera! The display should be spectacular.

### **Spring Wildflower Celebration at the Laurel-Snow State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. ET

**Location:** Meet at the parking lot at Laurel-Snow State Natural Area

**Fee:** \$10 per person, children 12 and under free

**Leader:** Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** Register by April 16<sup>th</sup> by contacting Loretha Legette, 615-532-0431. Also RSVP by April 16<sup>th</sup> to [lisa.huff@tn.gov](mailto:lisa.huff@tn.gov).

**Description:** If you've never been to the Laurel-Snow state natural area to see the spring wildflowers, you've really missed something special. The walk is very easy along the trail by Richland Creek, which is a spectacle all by itself with huge, house-sized boulders and beautiful, clear cascades. We'll see carpets of common spring wildflowers. Usually, we also see salamanders hiding in seep crevices and lots of neat insects. Our destination will be Laurel Falls, which is about 3 miles one way. This is a great photographing opportunity. Bring your cameras and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. Bring water and snacks/lunch. The entire hike will take about 5 hours, but you're welcome to do all or only a part of it. The first part of the walk has the best flowers and is suitable for the elderly and very young. No pets, please.

Lisa Huff is the eastern regional ecologist for the state natural areas program. She has a background in wildlife, forestry and ecology and has been working in her profession since 1981. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any

other State Natural Area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/laurelsnow/>. For those interested in nearby lodging, please consider Harrison Bay State Park (<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harrison-bay>)

### **Greeter Falls Hike and Cleanup**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. CST

**Location:** Meet at the Greeter Falls Parking Lot

**Fee:** Free

**Leader:** Aaron Reid

**Reservations Required:** N/A

**Description:** Help keep Savage Gulf beautiful by joining Ranger Aaron for a moderate 1.5 mile hike to see both Greeter Falls and Boardtree Falls. Spring rains often bring trash down the creek to gather in the pools below the waterfalls. We will be picking up any trash we find and carrying it back to the parking lot. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring water, gloves, and a lunch. Trash bags will be provided. Call the Stone Door Ranger Station at (931) 692-3887 or the South Cumberland Visitor Center at (931) 924-2980 for more information.

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland>

### **Middle**

#### **Short Springs Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage**

**Location:** Short Springs parking area (under the water tower) on Short Springs Rd. just outside of Tullahoma

**Date:** Sunday April 12, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. CT

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Dennis Horn, Friends of Short Springs, Brian Bowen TN Natural Areas Program

**Sponsor:** Friends of Short Springs, Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations are not required**

**Description:** Short Springs is perhaps one of the richest wildflower areas in Middle Tennessee. Come enjoy the wildflowers, waterfalls, and cascading streams on a short two mile hike and gain a greater appreciation of this wonderful Middle Tennessee jewel. For more information including description, directions, and a map of Short Springs go to:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/shortspr/>

For those interested in nearby lodging, please consider Old Stone Fort State Park (no cabins just campground) <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort> or Tims Ford State Park

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford>.

### **Stillhouse Hollow Falls Hike**

**Location:** Meet at the parking area on Highway 43 at Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Leader:** Brian Ross and Brian Bowen, Tennessee Natural Areas Program

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Sponsor:** Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations are required:** RSVP [Brian.Bowen@tn.gov](mailto:Brian.Bowen@tn.gov) by April 14.

**Description:** Join us for an early spring hike to a spectacular Middle Tennessee waterfall and scenic forest. This is a 2 mile roundtrip and is easy to moderate with a short steep climb.

More info call (615) 532-0431 or email [Brian.Bowen@tn.gov](mailto:Brian.Bowen@tn.gov) For more information about Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area including maps and a detailed description go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/stillhouse/>

### **Flat Rock Cedar Glade and Barrens Spring Wildflower Hike**

**Date:** Saturday April 11, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Location:** Flat Rock Cedar Glade and Barrens (35.8585,-86.2956)

<http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/flatrock/>

Leader: Todd Crabtree, State Botanist, Division of Natural Areas

Fee: \$10 per person, children 12 and under free

Reservations required: Registration required by April 8. To register, contact Loretha Legette at 615-532-0431.

**Description:** This state natural area is home to globally rare plant species. It is also one of the best and largest protected areas for cedar glade plants anywhere in the world. During the past few years, botanical survey work by Todd Crabtree has discovered rare species previously unknown from the natural area, as well as new locations for other species. Culturally significant sites have also been found dating back to the time when some of the property was devoted to farming. We'll tour these sites and visit some little-known gems, including spring wildflowers more typical of mature forests further east. These colorful flowers are not as obvious as those of the open glades but we'll seek them out. Todd Crabtree was first introduced to the cedar glades of middle Tennessee over 30 years ago. His formal and informal education has continued since that time to include the plants of Tennessee and surrounding states. He regularly conducts botanical surveys on Federal, State and private lands and has primary responsibility for maintaining the official Tennessee Rare Plant List.

Bring water and lunch for this approximately 4 mile hike on mostly level terrain. Some rocky terrain and possibly muddy spots will require appropriate footwear. We are sure to see some showy flowers so bring a camera. A plant list will be provided but a good field guide to wildflowers would be helpful. Questions regarding this trip can be sent to [todd.crabtree@tn.gov](mailto:todd.crabtree@tn.gov).

Overnight accommodations may be found at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>. If you wish to see an interactive map of all state parks and natural areas visit <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/publicparkfinder/>

### **Midweek Taylor Hollow Wildflower Walks (Two Options)**

**Option 1, Tuesday**

**Location:** We will meet at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast Sumner County

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015

**Time:** 1 p.m. CT

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leaders:** Roger McCoy and Allan Trently, Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations are required:** Participation is limited to 20; RSVP to [roger.mccoy@tn.gov](mailto:roger.mccoy@tn.gov) by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Description:** As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area is renowned for its floral display and a number of state-listed plant species. Along with enjoying a great display of spring wildflowers and learning a bit about their ecology, we'll discuss some of the forest types and trees within the natural area. The hike consists of about 2 miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have no problems. We may have one shallow stream crossing, so wear appropriate foot-wear. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring water and snacks.

With formal training in botany, Roger McCoy has conducted rare plant searches and monitoring throughout Tennessee and is one of the trip leaders at the annual Great Smoky Mountains National Park Wildflower Pilgrimage.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other state natural area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/taylor/> For information about nearby camping, please go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/BledsoeCreek/>.

Directions to Taylor Hollow:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Road,+Westmoreland&hl=en&sl=35.830521,->

[85.978599&sspn=2.369212,3.532104&hnear=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+Tennessee+37186&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Road,+Westmoreland&hl=en&sl=35.830521,-85.978599&sspn=2.369212,3.532104&hnear=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+Tennessee+37186&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A)

**Option 2, Friday**

**Location:** We will meet at 671 Phillips Hollow Road, Westmoreland, in northeast Sumner County

**Date:** Friday, April 17

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. CT

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leaders:** Andrea Bishop and Brian Bowen, Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations are required;** RSVP [Andrea.Bishop@tn.gov](mailto:Andrea.Bishop@tn.gov) by April 16<sup>th</sup> participation is limited to 20.

**Description:** As the first property acquired by the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Taylor Hollow State Natural Area is renowned for its floral display and a number of state-listed plant species. Along with enjoying a great display of spring wildflowers and learning a bit about their ecology, we'll discuss some of the forest types and trees within the natural area. The hike consists of about 2 miles at a slow to moderate pace and those accustomed to hiking should have no problems. We may have one shallow stream crossing, so wear appropriate foot-wear. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring water and snacks.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other state natural area, visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/taylor/> For information about nearby camping, please go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/BledsoeCreek/>.

Directions to Taylor Hollow :

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=671+Phillips+Hollow+Road,+Westmoreland&hl=en&sl=35.830521,-85.978599&sspn=2.369212,3.532104&hnear=671+Phillips+Hollow+Rd,+Westmoreland,+Tennessee+37186&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A>

### **Short Springs State Natural Area Hike and Cleanup**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 11 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet at the Trailhead Parking Lot at Short Springs State Natural Area

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Stephanie Williams, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup> to Stephanie Williams at 615-532-4799 or [stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov](mailto:stephanie.ann.williams@tn.gov).

**Description:** This is a great opportunity to get exercise, make new friends, respect the environment, give back to the community, and celebrate this truly unique natural area. Join me for a hike on ALL the trails at Short Springs State Natural Area. We will meet at the parking lot where we will begin our stretches by picking up trash. Then we will start a 3 mile hike on Busby Falls, Adams Falls, and Machine Falls Loop Trails picking up trash as we go. We will add on an optional 1.5 mile Laurel Bluff Loop Trail hike at the end for those interested. These trails have many ups and downs, creek crossings and beautiful waterfalls so be prepared for slow going and gorgeous scenery. Wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water, gloves, and lunch. I will provide trash bags and a truck to haul out what we find that should not be left behind in this beautiful setting. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, [visit the Natural Areas web site](#). For those interested in nearby lodging, please consider Old Stone Fort State Park (no cabins just campground) <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort> or Tims Ford State Park <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford>.

### **Fire on the Landscape**



**Date:** April 18, 2015

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST

**Location:** Flat Rock State Natural Area

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/flatrock/>

**Leader:** Brian Ross

**Fee:** \$10 per person, children 12 and under free

**Reservations required:** Registration required by April 15. To register, contact Loretha Legette at 615-532-0431.

**Description:** Smokey Bear says, “Only you can prevent forest fires” and this is what might come to mind when fire on the landscape is mentioned. What Smokey doesn’t mention is that fire was historically a big part of our natural systems, and especially in the glade/barren systems of Middle Tennessee. These globally rare ecosystems were maintained by fire, which kept the landscape more open. Fire has been suppressed on the landscape for the last century, which has allowed a succession of various tree and shrub species.

Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens is a fire dependent ecosystem that contains many rare plant species that are federally and state listed, and is one of Tennessee's most ecologically significant natural areas. Natural Areas staff & partners use prescribed fire to maintain glade/barrens systems. Join Brian Ross, Middle Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, for a hike and discussion of fire dependent ecosystems, and restoration efforts that the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas has taken at Flat Rock. This hike will pass through areas that were recently managed with fire, so you will get to see the first-hand beneficial effects of fire on the landscape.

The hike will be 3 miles (easy difficulty), and within minutes from MTSU. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water and snacks. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about Flat Rock State Natural Area visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/flatrock/>. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil. You can address specific questions about the outing to [brian.ross@tn.gov](mailto:brian.ross@tn.gov).

### **Beaman Park State Natural Area Hike and Cleanup**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet at the Creekside Trailhead Parking Lot at Little Marrowbone Creek Road

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event.

**Leader:** Forrest Evans, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

**Reservations required:** RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup> to Forrest Evans at 615-289-4995 or [forrest.evans@tn.gov](mailto:forrest.evans@tn.gov).

**Description:** This is a great opportunity to get exercise, make new friends, respect the environment, give back to the community, and celebrate this truly unique natural area. Join me for a hike on the trails at Beaman Park State Natural Area. We will meet at the parking lot where we will begin our stretches by picking up trash. Then we will start a 5 mile hike up Henry Hollow and out the Ridgetop Trail and back picking up trash as we go. We will add on an



optional trip to the Nature Center at the end for those interested. These trails have many ups and downs and beautiful creeks so be prepared for slow going and gorgeous scenery. Wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water, gloves, and lunch. I will provide trash bags and a truck to haul out what we find that should not be left behind in this beautiful setting. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about this as well as any other State Natural Area, [visit the Natural Areas web site](#). For those interested in nearby lodging, please consider Montgomery Bell State Park for camping or a full service inn.  
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/montgomery-bell>

## **WEST**

### **The Clifton Bend Butterfly Count at Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. CT

**Location:** We will meet in the parking lot of Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area. Directions and a map to the site can be found at <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/carrollcabin/>

**Leader:** Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Bart Jones, butterfly expert, North American Butterfly Association

**Fee:** There is no charge for the state event; for those that want to be listed as participants in the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) butterfly count, NABA charges \$3.00 per participant.

**Reservations Required:** RSVP required by April 10 to Allan Trently at 731-512-1369 or at [allan.trently@tn.gov](mailto:allan.trently@tn.gov). If you need to call me on April 11<sup>th</sup> call my cell at 731-234-4887 (coverage at Carroll Cabins is not reliable).

**Description:** Walk through the unique and wildflower-dominated Silurian-aged barrens of the Western Valley physiographic region of Decatur County. Learn about the barrens and the plants and butterflies that use the barrens while helping count the many colorful butterfly species we will see flying. It is OK if you don't know your butterflies. You'll learn a few species that you can help count. The data that you help collect will go to the North American Butterfly Association. Be prepared for off-trail walking along gentle slopes. We meet at 9:30 AM and continue till about noon. The barrens are treeless areas so sunscreen is highly recommended. Also wear tick repellent since ticks are common along the forested edges.

All those attending this event will be participating in citizen science. Citizen science is a way to involve 1000s of non-scientists in collecting much needed data that will go towards understanding the biology and conservation needs of species. Butterfly counts take place throughout Tennessee (as well as North and South America). My hope is that you will be motivated to learn the butterflies so that you can be a future member of the citizen science community and hopefully I'll see you on other butterfly counts

### **Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park – State Natural Area Woodland Trail Wildflower Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet at the Visitor Center at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park to hike to the Woodland Trail

**Leader:** Samantha Cox, Park Ranger and Allan J. Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**Fee:** there is no fee for this event

**Reservations Required:** Not required. For information and directions call the Visitor Center at 901-876-5215.

**Description:** Join Samantha Cox and Allan Trently for a morning of hiking on the 3-mile Woodland Trail. The hike is moderate to strenuous and goes up and down a number of rolling hills through hardwood forest. Participants will learn about the plants along the trail and about the colorful local history and see some champion trees which grow well due to the extremely fertile soil near the Mississippi River. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. A camera, snacks and water and walking stick are recommended. Some areas of the trail are tricky to negotiate! The hike will last approximately 3 hours. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park visit the web site at: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/meeman-shelby>

### **One-Hour Canoe Float at Reelfoot Lake State Park**

**Dates and Times:** Saturday (April 11 and April 18) trips leave at 9 a.m.

**Location:** Meet at the Reelfoot Lake State Park's Visitor Center

**Leader:** Reelfoot Lake Park Staff

**Fee:** \$10 per person or \$5 per person if you have your own canoe or kayak

**Reservations Required:** For reservations or additional information please call Reelfoot Lake State Park's Visitor Center at 731-253-9652.

**Description:** Join our experienced naturalist for a one-hour leisurely canoe float on Reelfoot Lake. Come experience the beauty and serenity of this majestic lake. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually shows up to check out the canoeist. The State Park provides canoe, life jacket and paddles. We suggest you bring snack, drink, change of clothes, camera and binoculars in a waterproof, floatable container. Upper body strength is needed.

These trips are sponsored by Tennessee State Parks and are part of the Tennessee State Natural Areas Celebration which occurs from April 11 to April 19. Additional canoe floats led by the Reelfoot Lake Park staff occur every weekend in March and April. Please contact the Reelfoot Lake Park's Visitors Center for more information on additional floats. For campground information call 731-538-3356 or for online reservations go to [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com) and click on Reelfoot Lake, Camping and then Reservations. Visit the Reelfoot Lake State Park website at <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake> for additional information on the Park and visit <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/reelfoot/> for information on the Reelfoot Lake State Natural Area.

### **Three-Hour Deep Swamp Canoe Float at Reelfoot Lake State Park**

**Dates and Times:** Saturday (April 11 and April 18) trips leave at 1 p.m. and Sunday (April 12 and April 19) trips leave at 9 a.m.

**Location:** Meet at the Reelfoot Lake State Park's Visitor Center

**Leader:** Reelfoot Lake Park Staff

**Fee:** \$10 per person or \$5 per person if you have your own canoe or kayak

**Reservations Required:** For reservations or additional information please call Reelfoot Lake State Park's Visitor Center at 731-253-9652.

**Description:** Join our experienced naturalist for a three-hour canoe float through seldom explored areas of Reelfoot Lake. Observe old growth cypress forest, a heron rookery and an eagle nest as we leisurely paddle through the cypress swamp. Exciting sights include large fish swimming, ducks taking flight and the occasional snake making an appearance. A variety of bird life such as songbirds, ducks, herons, owls, or an eagle usually shows up to check out the canoeist. This is one of the most unique adventures offered in West Tennessee! The State Park provides canoe, life jacket and paddles. We suggest you bring snack, drink, change of clothes, camera and binoculars in a waterproof, floatable container. Upper body strength is needed.

These trips are sponsored by Tennessee State Parks and are part of the Tennessee State Natural Areas Celebration which occurs from April 11 to April 19. Additional canoe floats led by the Reelfoot Lake Park staff occur every weekend in March and April. Please contact the Reelfoot Lake Park's Visitors Center for more information on additional floats. For campground information call 731-538-3356 or for online reservations go to [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com) and click on Reelfoot Lake, Camping and then Reservations. Visit the Reelfoot Lake State Park website at <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake> for additional information on the Park and visit <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/reelfoot/> for information on the Reelfoot Lake State Natural Area.

### **Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area Boardwalk Nature Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2015

**Time:** 10 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet in the parking lot of Big Cypress Tree State Park

**Leader:** Bill McCall, Park Manager, Big Cypress Tree State Park

**Fee:** There is no charge for this event

**Reservations Required:** RSVP required by April 17 to Bill McCall. Text Bill at 731- 332-2446 or email at [Bill.McCall@tn.gov](mailto:Bill.McCall@tn.gov) to make reservations

**Description:** This event is sponsored by Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. In celebration of Natural Areas Celebration and of the newly constructed boardwalk, the Park Manager, Bill McCall will conduct an interpretive walk along the 1,100-ft boardwalk. The boardwalk traverses through two types of bottomland hardwood forest: semi-permanently flooded forest around sloughs and pools and seasonally flooded forest. Participants will learn about the history of the Park and what plants and animals can be found living in these bottomlands. The walk starts at 10:00 and should end no later than noon.

For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about Big Cypress Tree visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at:

<http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/bigcypress/> or the state park web site at: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/big-cypress-tree>.

### **Deep Swamp Canoe Float at Eagle Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park**

**Dates:** Sundays, April 12 and 19

**Time:** 9a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Location:** Meet at the Visitor Center at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park; be prepared to caravan from there to the Eagle Lake launch site, 5 miles.

**Leader:** Samantha Cox, Park Ranger

**Fee:** \$5 a seat or \$10 per canoe; small children/minors can ride in the middle.

**Reservations Required:** Please call the Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park's visitor's center at 901-876-5215 to make a reservation.

**Description:** This is a refreshing one mile guided canoe float around Eagle Lake, a Bald Cypress Swamp, where you can see herons and egrets as they migrate in and very possibly see one of our local American Bald Eagles. This is a bird-lover's paradise! There are only 12 spots available per trip, unless you bring your own canoe or kayak; in either case you must call for reservations. Bring water, bug spray, and sunblock according to your needs. This trip lasts about 1.5 hours. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park visit the web site at: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/meeman-shelby>

### **Early Birding Paddle on the Ghost River Section of the Wolf River**

**Trip Details:** Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's webpage at

<http://www.wolfriver.org/default.aspx?p=129528&evtid=327978:4/18/2015> for the complete details for this event.

**Date:** Saturday, April 18

**Time:** Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's webpage (listed above) for details

**Location:** Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's webpage (listed above) for details

**Leader:** Gary Edge, the Wolf River Conservancy

**Fee:** Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's webpage (listed above) for details

**Reservations Required:** Reservations through the Wolf River Conservancy are required. We recommend you register early, for this trip often fills to capacity. Persons wishing to paddle on this adventure must register by 5 PM, Thursday, April 16 before the trip. Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's webpage (listed above) for details

**Description:** This trip is designed for both aspiring and experienced bird watchers. We will start early and paddle 8 miles, through five ecosystems. This journey will take us through hardwood forest, wetlands, the Ghost River, Spirit Lake and grasslands of the Wolf River. TWO Bald Eagles have been sighted numerous times over the past few months on this section. We need nest building confirmation and participants on this paddle could be the first. Nesting Bald Eagles have not been reported in this area in over 100 years. The Ghost Section of the Wolf River in the southwest corner of Tennessee is a mysterious paddle. Early boating attempts to navigate this section would soon find out the river just simply disappeared. Hence the name Ghost. Due to narrow passages, shallow waterways and dense undergrowth canoes or kayaks are, to this day,

still the only craft that can pass through these narrow water trails. Except for a few Beaver Dams, the river has never been dammed. Virtually the river appears today as it would have several hundred years ago.

This trip is sponsored by the Wolf River Conservancy and is part of the Tennessee State Natural Areas Celebration which occurs from April 11 to April 19. Please visit the Wolf River Conservancy's website at <http://www.wolfriver.org/> for information on the Conservancy. Information pertaining to the Ghost River State Natural Area can be found at the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas's webpage at <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/ghostriver/>.

### **Natural Areas Celebration: The Butterflies and Plants of the Old Forest State Natural Area**

**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2015

**Time:** Two separate walks will be conducted; at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Location:** We will meet at the East Parkway pavilion.

**Leader:** Bart Jones, Naturalist

**Fee:** There is no charge for the state event

**Reservations Required:** RSVP required by April 18. Call 901-214-5450 to make reservations.

**Description:** Help us celebrate Natural Areas Celebration at the Old Forest State Natural Area on April 19th. Come enjoy the wildflowers and butterflies in the Old Forest. Take a guided nature hike where you will learn about butterflies and the native plants they rely on. You'll also see some common landscape plants and learn how they are a threat to native ecosystems. Both walks will last for approximately 30 to 45 minutes. For information including a map and directions to the Old Forest State Natural Area visit Tennessee Division of Natural Areas website at <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/oldforest/>.

### **Natural Areas Celebration: The Birds of the Old Forest State Natural Area**

**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2015

**Time:** Two separate walks will be conducted; one at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Location:** We will meet at the East Parkway pavilion.

**Leader:** Margaret Jefferson, Tennessee Ornithological Society

**Fee:** There is no charge for the state event

**Reservations Required:** RSVP required by April 18. Call 901-214-5450 to make reservations.

**Description:** Help us celebrate Natural Areas Celebration at the Old Forest State Natural Area on April 19th. Spring is a great time for seeing and hearing birds in the forest. We should see resident birds (those that stay all year), birds that migrate through the area and those that migrate to the area to nest. Please bring a pair of binoculars and a field guide if you have one. Both walks will last for approximately 30 to 45 minutes. For information including a map and directions to the Old Forest State Natural Area visit Tennessee Division of Natural Areas website at <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/oldforest/>.

**Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park – Trail-less Swamp Tromp**

**Date:** Saturday, April 11

**Time:** 9 a.m. CT

**Location:** Meet at the Nature Center at Poplar Tree Lake at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park

**Leaders:** Samantha Cox, Park Ranger

**Fee:** there is no fee for this event

**Reservations Required:** Please call the Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park's visitor's center at 901-876-5215 to make a reservation. This is a limit of 20 for this hike.

**Description:** Join Samantha Cox for an adventurous morning of 3.5 to 4 miles of off-trail hiking. The hike begins at Poplar Tree Lake and heads north for approximately one mile to Grassy Lake. We will explore the Grassy Lake area, an area that is seldom seen by park visitors and then head southeast to the Pioneer Springs Trail. From the trail we will walk south back to the Poplar Tree Lake parking area. The hike is predominantly off-trail. Along the way we could run into shallow water, willow and cocklebur thickets and small ponds created by beaver dams. We will walk around deep water but be prepared for wet ground (rubber boots are recommended). As we walk, the leader will give a crash course in orienteering so please bring a GPS (not a phone GPS) and a compass if you have either. Although the hike will traverse mostly flat terrain, some may find it to be difficult due to the hike being off-trail. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps, about Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park visit the web site at: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/meeman-shelby>